

REMARKS

Kindly reconsider and allow claims 145-151.

Claims 148 and 151 have been indicated as allowable. Claim 148 has combined the features of claims 145-147, and claim 151 has combined the features of claim 145. Therefore those claims should be allowable.

History:

Claims 146-151 were previously indicated as allowable on page 5, paragraph 7 of the April 1, 2003 office action.

Claims 145-147, 149 and 150, were rejected as anticipated by Wipper 102(b).

Argument:

In supporting anticipation, the examiner has made assumptions neither stated in, found in nor supported by Wipper, for example 1) "saw tooth", 2) "similar saw tooth shaped profile", 3) "cavity closure region", 4) and "entire rear half section."

Upon reconsideration, it is believed the examiner will not find those assumptions to be correct.

1. Nothing in Wipper supports "saw tooth". The wide spacing of ribs 68 in Figure 2, ribs 84 in Figure 3 and ribs 126 in Figure 6 leads away from "saw-tooth shapes" in claims 145, 146, 147, 149 and 150. The examiner has made an unsupported assumption not based on Wipper.
2. Nothing in Wipper suggests "similar saw tooth shaped profile". It is impossible to see how widely spaced ribs 68, 84 and 126 would be considered a similar saw tooth shaped profile.

- 3. Nothing in Wipper mentions a cavity closure region or that saw tooth shapes be positioned in a cavity closure region.
- 4. In Wipper all ribs 68, 84, 126 extend all of the way from bow to stern. To find that a cavity closure region is an "entire rear half section" has no basis in Wipper.
- 5. Wipper's Figure 3 illustrates "... ribs 84 extending from the bow to the stern of the vessel." (Column 7, lines 37-38) Ribs 68 and 126 in Wipper's Figures 2 and 6 are shown extending bow to stern.

Saw-tooth shape has its ordinary meaning - shaped like the teeth of a saw or: "having a wave form resembling the teeth of a saw and of a quality that varies periodically, either gradually or gradually and abruptly between two peak values". P. 2021 Webster's Third International Dictionary, Merriam-Webster Inc. 1981.

Differences between claims 145-147, 149, and 150 and Wipper:

Claim 145 points out "a series of substantially symmetrical saw-tooth or U shapes on the surface in a cross section of the cavity closure region".

That feature is not found in and is not anticipated or even suggested by Wipper.

The purpose of that new feature is described in the paragraph beginning on line 10 of page 9:

"The ridges serve to direct the splash sideward and rearward instead of directly forward, thus reducing disturbances at cavity closure."

Nothing in Wipper has that structure, purpose, function or result.

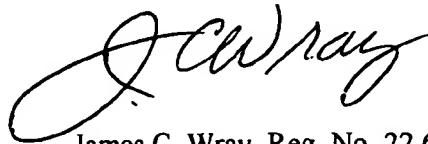
Claims 146, 147, 149 and 150 depend from claim 145 and distinguish the invention from Wipper.

Claims 148 and 151 have been indicated as allowable.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance of claims 145-151 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,



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